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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,708	08/06/2001	Avery Fong	208697US-2	8764
22850	7590	06/07/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			HSU, ALPUS	
1940 DUKE STREET			ART UNIT	
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PAPER NUMBER	
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,708

Applicant(s)

FONG, AVERY

Examiner

Alpus H. Hsu

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-23, 26-36 and 38-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10-23, 26-36, 38-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2616

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7, 10, 12-23, 26, 28-36, 39-46, 48-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eytchison in U.S. Patent No. 6,363,434 (of record), hereinafter referred as Eytchison, in view of Gaucher in U.S. Patent No. 6,175,860 (of record), hereinafter referred as Gaucher..

Regarding claims 1, 17 and 39, 53-56, Eytchison discloses a method, system and a computer readable medium containing program instructions for managing electronic devices providing a main server (214) including software (370) for managing network resources (340) from a single point of administration; connecting a plurality of electronic devices (210, 211a-211c, 212, 220, 222a) to said main server to create a local area network (LAN) (215), and managing said electronic devices using said software (see col. 6, lines 36-43, col. 7, lines 7-9), wherein said electronic devices include at least one of an appliance, an environmental control device, and an entertainment device, wherein said step of managing said electronic devices comprises: monitoring management initiating parameters (see col. 7, lines 30-35, col. 8, lines 44-53) including a sensed parameter (detected time of a system clock) for said electronic devices; determining a management action to be performed on an electronic device to be managed based on said management initiating parameters (col. 7, lines 35-43, col. 8, line 66 to col. 9, line 17), said management action changing a condition of the electronic device; and transmitting a management action data packet ("Granted" signal, "Denied" signal, "Unavailable" signal or

Art Unit: 2616

“Reserved” signal) to said electronic device to be managed in order to initiate the management action.

Eytchison differs from the claims, in that, it does not disclose a wireless LAN for connecting the server and the plurality of electronic devices, which is well known in the art and commonly used in data communications field for wireless communication.

Gaucher, for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches the uses of wireless LAN for connecting the server and the plurality of electronic devices (see Figure 3), which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art to implement into the method and system of Eytchison to provide the method and system with wireless communication capability to further improve the system efficiency.

Regarding claims 2, 18 and 40, Eytchison discloses that the main server comprises providing one of a desktop computer and a portable computer as said main Server (see col. 4, lines 33-38).

Regarding claims 3, 19 and 41, Eytchison discloses that the step of connecting comprises: transmitting an identification request from said main server; receiving a response from responding electronic devices within the range of said main server; and maintaining said LAN including the main server and the responding electronic devices (see col. 7, lines 21-29).

Regarding claims 4, 20, 34 and 42, Gaucher discloses the further step of providing an adjustable transmission power for said main server thereby providing an adjustable signal area for said wireless LAN (see col. 9, lines 18-36) for provide the method and system with transmission power control capability.

Art Unit: 2616

Regarding claims 5, 6, 21, 22, 35, 36, 46 and 47, Eytchison discloses the further steps of periodically updating information on the electronic devices connected to said wireless LAN, and adding and dropping electronic devices from said wireless LAN as necessary (see col. 8, lines 8-17).

Regarding claims 7, 23 and 45, Eytchison discloses that the step of maintaining said LAN comprises using a media access control (MAC) protocol (see col. 9, lines 23-56).

Regarding claims 10, 26, 33 and 46, Eytchison discloses the further steps of receiving said management action data packet at said electronic device to be managed; and performing said management action at said electronic device to be managed based on said management action data packet (see col. 7, lines 4-9).

Regarding claims 12, 28 and 48, Gaucher discloses the step of connecting a plurality of electronic devices comprises connecting at least one of an office equipment device and a mobile terminal device to said main server (see Figure 3).

Regarding claims 13, 14, 29, 30, 49 and 50, Eytchison discloses that the step of creating a LAN comprises creating a home network or a workplace network (see col. 6, lines 8-11).

Regarding claims 15, 31 and 51, Eytchison discloses that the electronic devices can share the software and hardware resources of the main server (see Figure 4).

Regarding claims 16, 32 and 52, Eytchison discloses that the further step of providing Internet connectivity to said electronic devices through said main server (see col. 2, lines 18-25).

3. Claims 11, 27, 38 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eytchison in view of Gaucher as applied to claims 10, 26, 33 and 46 above, and further in view of Balasubramaniam in U.S. Patent No. 6,803,728, hereinafter referred as Balasubramaniam.

Art Unit: 2616

Regarding claims 11,27, 38 and 47, the method and system provided from the teaching of Eytchison in view of Gaucher differs from the claims, in that, it does not disclose the further steps of: generating a management action report at said electronic device to be managed; transmitting a report data packet including said management action report from said electronic device to be managed, said management action report containing information about whether said management action was completed by the electronic device to be managed, which are well known in the art and commonly used in data communications field for monitoring and control purposes.

Balasubramaniam, for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches the steps of generating a management action report at said electronic device to be managed; transmitting a report data packet including said management action report from said electronic device to be managed, said management action report containing information about whether said management action was completed by the electronic device to be managed (see col. 9, lines 10-54), which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art to implement into the method and system provided from the teaching of Eytchison in view of Gaucher for providing server with monitoring and control capabilities to further enhance the system controllability.

4. Applicant's arguments filed April 5, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the remark, the applicant mainly argued that the handling of a scheduled event as taught by Eytchison does not meet the monitoring of a "sensed parameter" as now required by Applicant's independent Claims 1, 17, 33 and 39 since as described at the paragraph linking pages 16-17 of the application as originally filed, a sensed parameter is a measurable parameter

Art Unit: 2616

such as temperature or humidity, for example. There is no discussion in Eytchison of a scheduled event that involves such sensed parameters. And to the extent that the Official Action may consider a system clock a sensed parameter, the above-cited portion of the specification, and indeed the claims themselves as originally filed, make clear that a system clock is a different type of management initiating parameter than a sensed parameter.

The examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

First, by broadly interpreting the detection (or sensing) of a system clock at different times as the claimed sensed parameter, Eytchison clearly meets the claimed limitation.

Second, in the specification disclosure, page 16, line 23 to page 17, line 1, it recites: “the management initiating parameter may be the time of a system clock, a counter that counts a time lapse, or sensor data indicating temperature, humidity, or other measurable parameter”. But the claim is referring to a “sensed parameter”, which is not equivalent to the “**sensor data indicating temperature or humidity**”, and can be broadly interpreted as any parameter that is monitored, detected or sensed.

In view of the above reasoning, the examiner believes that all rejections under 103(a) should be sustained.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

Art Unit: 2616

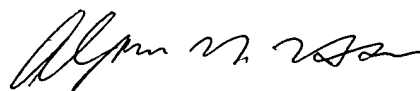
will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alpus H. Hsu whose telephone number is (571)272-3146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571)272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AHH



Alpus H. Hsu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2616